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JUNTA TO STUDY PROPOSALS FOR STRUCTURAL CHANGES

FY161706Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2145 GMT 15 Jun 78 FY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Jun--Military sources disclosed this afternoon that during a meeting to be held next week, the military junta will analyze the modifications to be made in the power structure prior to 1 August, the date on which Lt Gen Jorge Rafael Videla will assume sole responsibility of the nation's presidency after his retirement from the army.

The study of these modifications, which include the specification of powers of the future president and the military junta, was entrusted to the three secretaries general of the army, the navy and the air force by their respective commanders. Another portion of the study was conducted by the chiefs of staff of the three branches of the armed forces, who have been deciding how to include General Videla--once he is no longer a member of the military junta--in the fundamental decisions of military policy which, according to present regulations, is the responsibility of the three-man junta.

It is known that under the present circumstances, the president does not exercise supreme command of the armed forces as established in the constitution, but that this responsibility is undertaken by the military junta.

In order to analyze these issues, the chiefs of staff of the army, the navy and the air force--Brig Gen Roberto E. Viola, Vice Adm Armando Lambruschini, and Brig Gen Omar Graffigna, respectively--met again this morning.

The meeting, which took place at the Air Force Club, included the participation of high-ranking officials from the three staff headquarters.

With respect to the inclusion of the president in the military structure, the possibility of restoring the so-called "military committee" has been under consideration for some time. This would be a body made up of the three armed forces commanders and the president, with the chief of the Armed Forces Joint Staff--a position which is alternately occupied by high-ranking officials of the army, the navy and the air force--acting as secretary of the committee.

Power structure modifications concerning presidential powers were studied during the past few weeks by the secretaries general of the armed forces. Gen Reynaldo Bignone, Rear Adm Eduardo Fracassi and Brig Gen Basilio Lami Dozo will meet again next Monday to coordinate the opinions of each of the armed forces in order to submit their conclusions to the military junta which will then discuss them during their meeting next Thursday.

At the same time, the secretaries general are working together with Brig Gen Carlos Laidlaw, the planning minister, to prepare the so-called guidelines for government action. This includes general guidelines, some specific opinions and a few goals which the armed forces believe should be reached during the next governing period under General Videla as president, which will end in March 1981.

What is known as the Armed Forces' political proposal--through which the government hopes to reach the goal of full institutionality--is not part of these modifications. That political proposal will be studied at the appropriate time by the secretaries general of the armed forces in order to submit their conclusions to the military junta.

As is known, proposals have already been written by the navy and the army. The proposal from the air force, entitled Political Bases for the National Reorganization Plan, more than 50 pages long, has already been drawn up and is now being studied by Brig Gen Orlando Ramon Agosti, air force commander in chief.

An air force source revealed that once the final analysis is concluded, these bases will be coordinated with the proposals from the other armed forces. The same source disclosed that General Agosti will begin a series of inspection tours of air force bases at the end of this month.

COLUMNIST SPECULATES ON NEW JUNTA, CABINET

PY182036Y Buenos Aires HERALD in English 18 Jun 78 pp 3, 7 PY

["Politics and Labour" column by James Nielson]

[Excerpt] The country is entering a phase of transition. On August 1 President Videla will slough off his job as army commander-in-chief and start his new term as president. His cabinet is expected to acquire a far more civilian flavour than it now possesses, which is just as well. General Harguindeguy may stay on as Interior minister--he started very badly indeed but was a quick learner and is now the government's backbone--but most of the other jobs should go to civilians. One hopeful rumour going the rounds is that Francisco Manrique will be given the Social Welfare Ministry. As by far the most successful incumbent in this office has ever had, such an appointment would be welcomed by millions. It would also give the government a human face in necessarily harsh times. Most politicians would be very reluctant to associate themselves with a government doomed by circumstances to wrestle with the world's highest inflation rate, but Manrique has always had a high sense of public service, something unfortunately all too rare here.

When Videla retires from the army, he should be succeeded in the top job by General Eduardo Viola, his present chief of staff. Viola is not loved by all his comrades. Some of them think he is far too cerebral and would prefer a more swashbuckling character. But as the armed forces, of which the army is the biggest, are to carry responsibility for governing the country for the next decade or more, it is just as well that their leaders remain men who are aware that politics is a subtle, difficult game and that good administration is a serious business. Fighting inflation is far harder than fighting a foreign army.

The naval succession is all cut and dried. Admiral Emilio Massera has publicly stated that Rear Admiral Lambruschini will step into his shoes. The likely time for this event is thought to be the middle of September. This will leave Admiral Massera, who has taken an individual line on many major issues, at a loose end. His distaste for official economic policies is no secret, although what his answer is to the present little difficulties beyond doling out more money to the workers. It, [sentence as published] once retired, however, the admiral could find his political following drastically smaller than he imagined. Plenty of retired military figures, who looked very large indeed when in uniform, have tried to carve out political careers for themselves after leaving the service. Most have failed because power is rarely portable, it is not included in the pension. But there are always the odd "successes" like the post-service careers of General Peron and Ongania to keep the retired military heart beating away strongly.

The air force succession will take place a few months after the army and the navy have negotiated theirs.

Just who will follow Brigadier Orlando Agosti, who has been speaking rather like the government's ideologist ever since the 1976 coup, is still uncertain. The current chief-of-staff, Brigadier Omar Graffigna, seems to be favourite. That would make the next junta as Italian in flavour as Richard Nixon's court was Teutonic.

MASSERA CALLS FOR CONTINUED NATIONAL UNITY

FY171425Y Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1050 GMT 17 Jun 78 FY

[Text] The commander in chief of the navy stated yesterday: We should begin as soon as possible to establish realistic short-term goals which we can all consider necessary. Adm Emilio Eduardo Massera said: In order to be happy, we have to begin by being determined. We have been discouraged and undetermined for some time now. In order to change we have to initiate change ourselves. It will be necessary to indefinitely prolong this spirit of solidarity which we now have, he said, referring to the world soccer games.

The navy commander made these remarks during a luncheon held in his honor by the Commerce, Industry and Manufacturing Association in a Mar del Plata hotel. Prior to the luncheon, Admiral Massera had presided at the inaugural ceremony of the multiple technique submarine workshop built at the Mar del Plata naval base.

Elsewhere in his speech, Admiral Massera stated that while some philosophers continue to analyze subjects such as capitalism and populism, the nation demands structural changes. These changes should be far removed from that indecision which has held us back for so many decades.

He added: We should be aware that the battle will now be waged in another field. Rather than a choice between schools of economic trends or forms of government, we will confront a moral crisis. Either Argentina prevails at the expense of Argentines, or every institution realizes that Argentina's success can only be achieved through the success of Argentines. Today's and tomorrow's institutions should become convinced of this.

Admiral Massera recalled that Argentines have now given themselves an impressive precedent with the soccer cup. He continued by asking: Are we able to give our country what we give to this sports event? This is a question of responsibilities, and therefore it is a question of morality.

The navy commander concluded by saying: This is the issue confronting Argentines. Our politics and our economy will improve as a consequence.

MASSERA DENIES DESIRE FOR FUTURE PUBLIC OFFICE

FY171543Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0155 GMT 17 Jun 78 FY

[Text] Salta, 16 Jun--The commander of the navy, Adm Emilio Massera, asserted here today that his "withdrawal from navy service does not imply a withdrawal from service to the republic," and stated that "Admiral Massera has no aspiration to hold public offices."

He was received at El Aybal airport by Interior Minister Albano Harguindeguy; navy Capt Roberto Ulloa (ret), governor of Salta Province; and other high officials and officers.

In a statement made shortly after his arrival he said that "the fact that I will stand outside navy service does not put an end to my willingness to continue struggling for and trying to reach the important national objectives."

He added: "We should leave aside empty talk and carry forward the task and effort the nation is demanding."

He concluded by saying that "in my retirement I will be just another citizen and I hope to meet all of you on the same sidewalk, just as we are now during the World Cup."

'ARMED INTRUSIONS' ON BRAZIL BORDER REPORTED

PY171901Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1440 GMT 17 Jun 78 PY

[Text] Posadas, 17 Jun--Capt Rodolfo Poletti (ret), the Misiones governor, will reportedly preside over the ceremony commemorating "Flag Day" in Puerto Andresito, a town located at the mouth of the Yguazu River, to ratify Argentine sovereignty in the northeastern part of the province which borders Brazil. The action was prompted by the alleged armed incursions into Argentine towns in that region.

In this regard the provincial government issued a communique in which it states that "our absence has aroused the appetite of intruders who had the imprudence to threaten to kill Argentine officials who were fulfilling their duty."

After appealing to all Argentines to be "soldiers of Argentine sovereignty," the official communique states that "Misiones needs each centimeter of its territory for its development."

BEAGLE DELEGATION ENDS TALKS IN SANTIAGO

PY162226Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2055 GMT 16 Jun 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Jun--The Press Secretariat has reported that the Argentine delegation headed by Brig Gen Ricardo Etcheverry Boneo (ret) which, together with the Chilean delegation, forms Mixed Commission No 2, will return to our capital today.

A communique adds: "The working meetings were held in an atmosphere of cordiality and courtesy, and the two parties have been encouraged by the common goal of strengthening the fraternal and historical links which unite the two nations, on the basis of the Puerto Montt Act signed on 20 February 1978, to definitely resolve--through direct understanding--the pending problems regarding the southern region."

It also indicates: "At the conclusion of this second round of negotiations Argentine-Chilean Mixed Commission No 2 will draft a final document, as was done in our capital in May at the conclusion of the first round, and will then release a joint declaration, as was agreed by the commission at the beginning of the meetings."

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE PEREDA RELEASES PROGRAM

PY160344Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 15 Jun 78 PY

[Text] Gen Juan Pereda Asbun, the official candidate, has released his platform, which leans toward harmonizing and perfecting the current government's programs and which seeks to create a modern state capable of guaranteeing a civilized coexistence. When disclosing his platform, Pereda said that our fatherland is fighting a battle which will influence the rest of the continent and consequently the specific positions of the international trends which are struggling for world domination.

The candidate maintains that for his plan to be implemented there must be a social agreement among the country's sectors based on a free and unifying nationalism including all similar trends which operate in the world.

Let us look at the major points of Pereda's platform:

Among the economic objectives, the official candidate will seek the redistribution of income, which in turn will mean a general improvement in the standard of living and in the work, educational, health and housing sectors.

Regarding foreign policy, relations with the Third World countries will be expanded, although nothing is said about the socialist orbit.

In order to overcome the marked difference between the rural area and the city, the official candidate promises to implement overall rural development as the complementary stage to agrarian reform. He also promises to support modern agriculture in the east through loans, technology and other means.

Regarding the private sector, the official candidate proposes to stimulate efficient and competitive private activity and at the same time allow the participation of people in the capital and management of enterprises.

There is nothing new in the rural sector, but Pereda promises to seek a solution to the problem of small holdings through the development of cooperativism and agroindustry. In the cooperative sector, the promise to create cooperative and labor banks is repeated.

Regarding the mining and metallurgy sector, Pereda announces a technical and administrative reorganization of the Mining Corporation of Bolivia and also stipulates that the metallurgical plants will be managed exclusively by the state. The private mining sector will be developed through soft loans, machinery and capital.

As for the steel sector, the accelerated creation and implementation of the El Mutun development center is announced. A new mining code is also promised.

Regarding the energy and hydrocarbons sector, the official candidate announces the overall use of natural gas and encourages the use of heavy hydrocarbons.

For the industrial sector, Pereda promises new incentives and a reduction in taxation for enterprises which use technology, intensive manpower, national natural resources and which use their industries for the needs of the majority of the population and those which produce for the import-export market.

Regarding the transport and communications sector, the candidate promises the creation of internal development centers and also promises the definite opening and conclusion of the La Paz-Trinidad, Santa Cruz-Trinidad and Trinidad-(?Tarija) highways. Here we must point out that [words indistinct] La Paz-Beni highway will be paved by 1983, but Pereda announces that this work will be concluded in 1982.

Regarding the educational sector, the candidate asserts that education does not now create an ethical and social awareness. Respect for and belief in our national values are not encouraged. Within this framework, Pereda promises to implement a grassroots and not a classist education and create a single [unica] or unified education. He also promises the total eradication of illiteracy in Bolivia. Pereda promises university autonomy and cogovernment, but under a revised basic law. He also announces the creation of a student bank.

Regarding social policy, Pereda asserts that union rights will be respected and the normal management of the Bolivian Labor Central will be guaranteed. The official candidate also promises a selective rise in salaries and control of inflation.

Regarding foreign policy, he announces respect for human rights and democratic freedom.

Finally, Pereda supports maritime reintegration, but without any type of territorial annexation.

DETAILS OF BANZER'S REMARKS ABOUT TALKS WITH CHILE

PY161445Y La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 Jun 78 PY

[Text] If the conditions and bases of the dialog with Chile are modified, these changes may undoubtedly have beneficial effects toward a solution of the Bolivian maritime problem.

Gen Hugo Banzer thus maintains that the bases for the dialog with Chile should be modified.

The president was answering a questions regarding attempts to achieve a resumption of a direct dialog with Augusto Pinochet's government to solve the maritime problem through diplomatic contacts. He clearly stated that the Bolivian people and government would change their attitude, if Chile proposes a dialog which would not include the exchange of territories. The president also stressed that if this occurs, Bolivia would propose many things, such as shared development. It was our idea to create a development zone in the very zone we had asked Chile to cede to us, and that would be a positive step for the three nations.

In his talk with the newsmen Gen Hugo Banzer Suarez said that when he hands over government to the winner of the July elections he will make a few suggestions regarding the maritime problem.

LEIGH SAYS MILITARY WILL HOLD POWER FOR 5 YEARS

PY171340Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 17 May 78 PY

[Text] Santiago--Chilean junta member Gustavo Leigh has reiterated a previous statement and advocated the enforcement of a process which should not last more than 5 years for the full restoration of institutionality in Chile.

General Leigh stated, however, that this process of national institutionality must be carried out by the military government and denied rumors which made him appear impatient.

Furthermore, General Leigh stated that he believes he was quite explicit in the speech he delivered at (Jose Victorino Bastarriga) Academy, in which he discussed Chile's future institutionality. He noted: "I believe that the military government wants to achieve this institutionality only on the basis that the [new] government in turn will act within a responsible state of law."

He added that the military government, with the cooperation of all healthy and useful sectors of society, must first experience several stages. General Leigh noted that there could not be an immediate future without a military government since Chile is not in a condition to have an open policy and even less so when it is experiencing pressure from abroad to speed up the process.

JUSTICE MINISTER DISCUSSES 'NEW DEMOCRACY'

PY171916Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Jun 78 PY

[Text] Justice Minister Monica Madariaga has said that the new institutionality will require greater social participation. She said this while conducting the inaugural class of the school of law of the University of Concepcion, which is commemorating its 113th anniversary.

The minister said that the participation of intermediate level organization, such as neighborhood, university, union and business associations, will be encouraged and increased within the new democracy. She added that each one's autonomy will be respected and that they will be able to contribute their knowledge and express the concerns of each specific field.

Madariaga said the authorities do not intend to reestablish traditional democracy, but will form a new type of democracy whose principal characteristics were outlined by the president in Cerro Chacarillas. She recalled that Pinochet said this new democracy should be authoritarian because [words indistinct].

Afterward, the minister met with the entire appeals court of that city, the ladies of the court [as heard], the regional justice secretary and other members of the Concepcion courts.

CLAIM TO STRAIT OF MAGELLAN REITERATED

PA170554Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 04040 GMT 17 Jun 78 PA

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 16 Jun--The Chilean Government today reiterated its claim of sovereign rights over the eastern mouth of the Strait of Magellan, on the southern tip of the continent, in reaction to the Argentine Foreign Ministry's return without consideration of a note of reservation.

The Chilean Foreign Ministry said that it "does not wish to comment on an attitude that does not correspond with common diplomatic practice and limits itself to (?reiterating) the reservations expressed and to leaving a record that the Republic of Argentina has been duly notified of these reservations." Notwithstanding the unusual return of the note, "Chile will continue carrying out the negotiations currently underway."

The Foreign Ministry also released the text of the notes exchanged over the past few days. In a note delivered to the Argentine ambassador in Santiago "regarding certain activities sponsored by the Argentine Government in the vicinity of the eastern region of the Strait of Magellan." [fragment as received]

Regarding this, [the note] points out that the Chilean Government "deems it necessary to express the formal reservation of all the rights that correspond to the Republic of Chile in the area of the eastern access to the Strait of Magellan, be these rights related to sovereignty itself or to sovereign and exclusive rights over exploration and exploitation and over submarine areas."

It adds that the Chilean Government "is not attempting to alter the rights of the parties but simply wishes to reserve its rights in the region in question which, as is known, has important natural resources." The note was returned by the Argentine Government "because, in its judgment, it is unjustified and its presentation can only be attributed to a political objective."

An informed Foreign Ministry source said that the subject of the Strait of Magellan is included among those being negotiated by mixed commission No 2 which was formed following the meeting of Presidents Pinochet and Videla at Puerto Montt.

EL MERCURIO SAYS BEAGLE DISPUTE SHOULD GO TO COURT

PY162319Y Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 15 Jun 78 p 2 PY

[Excerpt] The Chilean newspaper EL MERCURIO asserted yesterday that Argentina and Chile should submit their cases to the International Court of Justice at the Hague to overcome their border dispute. The EL MERCURIO editorial stated that "the path of the law is the only alternative for two bordering friendly nations which have a past of common glories and a future filled with possibilities of friendly cooperation."

The newspaper notes that this is the procedure included in the 1972 General Treaty for Judicial Solution of Controversies. The editorial adds: "As a last resort, in accordance with this treaty, a unilateral appeal to the court by Chile would be acceptable."

CUBILLOS RETURNS, SAYS DE LA PUENTE TO VISIT

PY171852Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Jun 78 PY

[Text] Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos emphasized the importance which Peru gives to its relations with Chile, and announced the upcoming visit of Jose de la Puente, Peruvian foreign minister, to our country. Minister Cubillos made these remarks on arrival at Pudahuel airport after his 4-day official visit to Lima.

Minister de la Puente will visit Chile as soon as the assemblies of the Organization of American States and the United Nations are over. Cubillos said he hopes to have him here very soon. He also added that he discussed many subjects with the Peruvian minister during their 8 hours of frank dialog.

SCHEDULE OF DELEGATION TO OAS REPORTED

PY171844Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Jun 78 PY

[Text] Part of the Chilean delegation to the OAS assembly, Ambassador (Pedro Daza), the former Chilean representative in Bolivia, and Counsellor (Daricio Figueroa), the director of the Foreign Ministry's Multilateral Policy Department will leave for Washington tonight. The rest of the delegation, headed by Minister Hernan Cubillos, will leave on Monday night.

The delegation also includes the Chilean ambassador to the OAS, Maria Eugenia Oyarzun; the ambassador to the United Nations, Sergio Diez; legal advisers (Sergio Rejon) and (Miguel Schweitzer Walter); the Foreign Ministry's economic director, (Manuel Cazanueva); and Counsellor (Fernando Gamboa).

The eighth OAS assembly will begin on 21 June. It has been reported that the foreign minister will return to Chile on 25 June, after having delivered a speech before the assembly's delegates.

This meeting will discuss a total of 34 subjects. Among the most important of these are the reports of the Inter-American Human Rights Commission on the situations in Uruguay and Paraguay. The meeting will also deal with some aspects of terrorism, such as attacks on individuals and extortion. The assembly will then receive a report on the state of negotiations between the governments of Panama and the U.S. on the canal issue.

BRIEFS

DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY FOR RED CROSS--The government has announced that it has granted officials from the International Red Cross the same privilege of immunity given to diplomats. [Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 8 Jun 78 PY]

EXPECTED INFLATION--Officials from the Central Bank have stated that the expected inflation in Chile this year will not go over 20 percent. They emphasized that there is no indication that the consumer price index will go over 20 percent this year. [Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 8 Jun 78 PY]

ENERGY COMMISSION CREATED--The official bulletin reports that the Ministry of Mines has created the National Energy Commission [Comision Nacional de Energia--CNE], which will be in charge of the preparation and coordination of the country's energy policies. The commission will also carry out studies on exploration, exploitation, storage, transportation and distribution of energy resources, including studies on nuclear, thermal, solar and other energy resources. [Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 8 Jun 78 PY]

EXPORTS TO BRAZIL--Chilean exports to Brazil increased from $78 million in 1973 to $416 million in 1977. Industrial exports rose 55 percent and agricultural exports 37 percent. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 16 May 78 PY]

FISHING AGREEMENT WITH JAPAN--The Chilean National Institute for Fishing Development has signed an agreement with the Japanese Development Center of Maritime Resources for the exploration of fishing resources in the southern part of Chile. [Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 7 Jun 78 PY]

LIBERAL PARTY LEADER RELEASED FROM JAIL

PA181652Y Quito Voz de Los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 18 Jun 78 PA

[Text] Liberal Party leader Pedro Jose Arteta was released yesterday. He had been in jail since last Wednesday. Persons close to Arteta reported that he was released at 0715.

Arteta, who is campaign director for Doctors Raul Clemente Huerta and Arsenio Vivanco Neira for the mountain regions and who was formerly director of the Liberal Party, was arrested because of a comment he made criticizing statements made by [Supreme Council member] Gen Guillermo Duran Arcentales. The parties which comprise the national democratic unity front protested the arrest, and Liberal Party Deputy Director Daniel Alvarez announced that Vice Adm Alfredo Poveda Burbano, president of the Supreme Council of Government, had offered to release Arteta.

Rear Adm Victor Hugo Garces Carrillo [as heard] has said that the government remains committed to freedom of expression but does not accept abuses of this freedom.

Minister Explains Arrest

PA171828Y Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 17 Jun 78 PA

[Excerpts] Acting Government Minister Enrique Leon Palacios has said that certain persons seem to purposefully confuse freedom of speech with freedom to insult the government, its institutions and its officials who at all times have shown tolerance and publicly and constantly expressed their determination to respect and guarantee the return to institutional life in Ecuador. This tolerance has its limits, because under no circumstance can it be admitted that the highest state authorities can be insulted without punishment under the pretext of exercising the right to free speech and taking advantage of the present political situation, the minister said.

On Wednesday, the minister said, Liberal leader Pedro Jose Arteta hurled unwarranted insults at Gen Guillermo Duran Arcentales while commenting on statements made by this member of the Supreme Council of Government to the effect that he is steadfastly determined to move ahead with the plan for a return to legality. The statement drew favorable comments from all national and international opinion circles. This was the reason for Arteta's arrest, but this does not mean an attitude on the part of the government that is incongruous with its previous statements or a hostile attitude toward any group or political campaign.

Leon added that the government will permanently maintain an attitude of respect for the freedom of speech of Ecuadoreans, always provided they do not violate the most elementary principles of respect for the state, the institutions and authorities, which will have to be upheld until the last day of this administration.

ARMED FORCES PLEDGE COOPERATION IN ELECTIONS

PA171623Y Quito Voz de Los Andes in Spanish 1730 GMT 16 Jun 78 PA

[Text] The armed forces pledge to cooperate fully in the realization of the popular consultation of 16 July. A commission of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal met yesterday with the members of the joint command of the armed forces to secure cooperation similar to that which was given during the referendum in January. The armed forces will provide all the necessary support, it was emphasized. Their first task will be to cooperate in the delivery of the electoral voting lists throughout the country.

REPORTAGE ON EVENTS, SPEECHES DURING TREATY CEREMONIES

Government Decrees National Holiday

PA161656Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1625 GMT 16 Jun 78 PA

[Cadena Panacumbre 78 Radio and Television Network]

[Text] The national government decreed today a national holiday throughout the country on the occasion of the signing of the exchange of notes of ratification of the new Panama Canal treaties. The measure was adopted so that the entire population may witness the historic and solemn ceremony that will take place at the Nuevo Panama Gymnasium starting at 1500 and attend the massive rally at 1700 at the 5 May Plaza.

Work activities in the interior of the republic, including the Province of Colon, were suspended as of 0100, while in the capital city work activities will terminate at noon today. Work will resume tomorrow.

Torrijos Interviewed at Airport

PA161952Y Panama City Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1749 GMT 16 Jun 78 PA

[Interview with Panamanian Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera at Tocumen airport on 16 June by unidentified Venezuelan reporter--recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] It has been several years, General, since I interviewed you at National Guard headquarters--the day a coup was staged against you but you retained power. You had not lost power, you told us at that time; you were not recovering power but confirming power, you told us. What has happened in Panama during these 10 years, General? Tell us in this informal, familial conversation we are holding with you.

[Answer] Sure, many things have happened, but the most important is that we have established a termination date for the existing colonialist situation. That is the most important thing.

[Question] And after that, General, there has been talk of a great democratic opening here. I was present the day your greatest opponent arrived, who, by the way, was rude--if we look at it objectively--in the manner in which he treated Panama and its institutions. But how do you feel after 10 years in power, now that democracy is growing and even getting a little out of hand?

[Answer] That is normal, that is to be expected of people who have been outside the country for a long time. They come back a little unaware of the actual situation in the country. They have no idea of what the future generations want, but these things are absolutely necessary to establish a balance. There cannot be a balance if there are Panamanians forced to remain outside the country contrary to their wishes.

[Question] General, what if democracy arrives in Panama?

[Answer] It has arrived. It has arrived, making a lot of noise. It has arrived insulting us.

[Question] Tell me, how is your friendship with the visiting presidents? Did you have a hard time convincing Jimmy Carter of everything you were saying, or was he the easiest one to convince?

[Answer] No sir, a book written by McCullough entitled Panama Between Two Oceans is what convinced Jimmy Carter for me. Anybody reading that book will be completely convinced that an injustice was committed against Panama. The man is a man of deep moral character, and he was morally convinced. The moral convictions, the conceptual convictions are the are the more permanent convictions. We identified ourselves as two leaders who were offering and selling the same moral cause. There were no problems in reaching an agreement that the best solution and the best defense of the canal was to conclude an agreement that the two peoples could accept. And so it is today.

[Question] Now, about your other friends, the other presidents, the Venezuelan, Costa Rican, Colombian and Mexican presidents and the Jamaican prime minister, how do you feel about them?

[Answer] They were the ones who understood my efforts and spontaneously acted as militants of the Panamanian cause and not just mere supporters of the cause when I went around preaching, selling the cause.

[Question] What Panama has achieved, General, is practically a miracle, that is, the unity of all Latin America. Do you think that, once this ceremony is over, this unity will be lost, or will it grow?

[Answer] It is going to grow. All of us in America must try to see this seed of unity grow so that the words "negotiated solution" will have the same effectiveness in solving the conflicts that still preveail in the hemisphere.

Arrival of President Carter

PA162029 [Editorial Report PA] Panama City Domestic Service Cadena Panacumbre 78 Radio and Television Network in Spanish at 1952 GMT begins live coverage of the arrival of U.S. President Jimmy Carter at Panama City's Tocumen airport.

President Carter's plane is sighted at 1952 GMT and touches down on the runway at 1954 GMT. The plane taxis down the runway, arriving at the terminal at 2000 GMT. The doors open and U.S. Ambassador William Jorden and the Panamanian chief of protocol enter the plane. President Carter and his wife appear at the door of the plane at 2001 GMT and are met by cheers as they start down the ramp. The President kisses a Panamanian girl. The Panamanian ambassador, who arrived on the plane with the U.S. President, greets Panamanian President Demetrio Lakas. Lakas and Carter then exchange greetings, after which Carter and Panamanian Chief of Government Omar Torrijos embrace. President Carter then kisses Mrs Torrijos, after which Torrijos and Mrs Carter exchange greetings. President Carter is then seen saying a few words to U.S. Ambassador Jorden. At 2003 GMT the U.S. National Anthem is sung by Panamanian schoolchildren, who follow it with the Panamanian anthem. After the singing of the anthems, President Carter and Torrijos approach a speaker's podium. Torrijos briefly introduced Carter to the assembled crowd, saying:

"Gentlemen, people of Panama: With pride I present the chief executive of the United States, who made the decision to sign a treaty with us and to initiate just relations with our country. This is only an introduction. The massive, enthusiastic and militant welcome will take place at the 5 May Plaza in a very short time."

Torrijos' words are greeted with applause by the crowd. President Carter begins speaking in Spanish at 2009 GMT, concluding his remarks at 2015 GMT. Carter and Torrijos then walk toward President Carter's limousine surrounded by U.S. Secret Service agents and Panamanian security personnel. According to the announcer, the Panamanian crowd waves flags. After a path has been cleared through the crowd, a motorcade is formed; and the presidential limousine departs the airport at 2020 GMT, at which time live coverage of President Carter's arrival ends.

Torrijos Exchange Ceremony Address

PA162221Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2111 GMT 16 Jun 78 PA

[Speech by Panamanian Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera at the Nuevo Panama Gymnasium in Panama City at ceremony for exchange of instruments of ratification of Panama Canal treaties--live]

[Text] I am not the protagonist of this historic ceremony, but rather its spokesman. The true protagonist is the people of Panama. [applause] It was the Panamanian people who, by their work, made the construction of the canal possible. They are the ones who have made all kinds of sacrifices in defense of their sovereignty. They are the ones who remember with vocation [as heard] and pride their martyrs of January 1964. [applause] They are the ones who have made is possible for this ratification ceremony to be held today. Consequently, this victory belongs to the people of Panama and the recompense and recognition should go to them. [applause]

Your Excellencies Presidents of the Republics of Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico and Venezuela; Your Excellency the Prime Minister of Jamaica; Your Excellency the President of the Republic of Panama; Your Excellency the President of the United States of America; excellencies; friends all:

In 1968 certain significant cadres of youth who were already in government posts swore to devote themselves completely to the cause of national liberation with the conviction that it was better to die standing than to live and be crushed. [applause]

For this reason, we took up the banner of the previous generation and we continued the generational alpinism of a people who never set a social price having only a single flag fly in their territory.

The struggle for sovereignty was the compass for our style of government and the religion which united the peoples of America. We realized that it was necessary to explain the basis for our cause to the world because moral and just causes are sold through honest and frank communication. This was the reason for our pilgrimage throughout the world.

We were present at the historic session of the Security Council. We were present at the nonalined countries meeting in Sri Lanka. We were present at the OAS. We were present at the Bogota meeting and we maintained a constant dialog with the peoples and governments of America. During this pilgrimage, we were able to convince many of the world's leaders that it was not dignified or honorable to view passage through the canal in terms of tons, freight, time and profit, ignoring the tons of humiliation which have been weighing on the Panamanian people since the beginning of the century.

Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford and finally you, President Carter, were convinced of the correctness of history's lesson which insists that there is no land or sea route which can guarantee innocent and indiscriminate passage to all the flags of the world without the consent of the riparian state.

If we wish to correct errors in order to amend injustices, we must act in accordance with the political and social calendar of history. I know that a step of this kind can bring about electoral reverses in the present, but history turns the emotional criticisms of those who feel but do not think into permanent applause and raises to the rank of statesmen those who at a given moment sacrifice personal popularity on behalf of national justice.

This is why President Franklin Delano Roosevelt has a permanent place among the Latin American peoples because he made the Good Neighbor Policy and nonintervention the fundamental doctrine of relations among our countries.

Those who wanted Panama to become another Dienbienphu or another Vietnam have witnessed with sadness how we have turned this into an example of effective and affectionate relations between our two nations.

When the U.S. Senate acknowledged that it is better to be just than prepotent and 68 of its members said "yes," it intelligently guaranteed the indefinite use of a strategic waist [as heard] which, precisely because it is strategic, has many admirers. Furthermore, it acted in accordance with the principles of those who fought to change the United States from a colony occupied by foreign troops into the great nation it is today, of which every American feels proud. With the treaty's ratification, the Senate changed the narrowminded attitude of "I am the canal's owner," to the just concept of "I can use it."

For Panamanians, the concepts "national" and "personal" mean the same thing because they live their fatherland's history through their own lives. In my childhood I used to naively ask why it was that I had to go through a part of our territory over which my country did not rule. Why two flags, why two policemen, why two languages? I never got the correct answer until an old man gave me that answer: because they are stronger. Visibly uncomfortable because of his great sense of dignity, he used to clarify certain confusing aspects for me and he bequeathed me a valuable heritage of struggle. But he also taught me that, regarding national liberation struggles, force is not the only thing that counts and that among statesmen the correlation of forces is measured within a moral context. [applause]

Mr President Carter, due to historical conviction and to the problems existing between our two countries, I must confess that when we first met I maintained an extremely prudent, and I would say even distrustful, attitude. But in subsequent meetings I realized how prejudiced my attitude had been; I felt I was being unjust and as of that moment I became truly linked to the spirit of a negotiated solution for the canal problem. [applause] I was convinced--and this I must make clear--of your moral stance and the honesty that the United States had in its President. [applause]

Nonetheless, I make a distinction between individual and social morality, between a ruler's rectitude and the wall interposed by the bureaucratic establishment. It may be for this reason that a dose of distrust may extend to the development of the programs we have drafted in the treaties. I have closely observed your titanic work, which was decisive in reaching an agreement, and I know that our honest cooperation will gradually dispel all doubts and confusions.

It is for this reason that I have instilled in my people a permanent attitude of cooperation, but cooperation accompanied by vigilance and the dignity they have always observed. [applause]

To the rulers present here who are accompanying us in this most important moment of our history, I do not say "thank you"--because consequences emanating from reason and an understanding of conceptual dignity are admired and respected, not thanked. [applause]

You constitute points of reference so that the future generations of this hemisphere will not give up in the defense of their rights. [applause]

Inspired by this moment of negotiated solution, in which Panama and the United States have been the protagonists, we should dedicate ourselves to fighting for the disappearance of the areas of conflict that still remain in this hemisphere, the most significant of these being, in my opinion, Bolivia's landlocked situation and Belize's self-determination. [applause]

Today, my most sincere congratulations and my deepest admiration go to the Panamanian people. This victory belongs to them, and so will its fruits. They have won it with blood and sacrifices and in the same manner they will be able to defend it. Thank you very much. [applause]

Torrijos Rally Speech

PA170020Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2248 GMT 16 Jun 78 PA

[Speech by Panamanian Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos at rally held at 5 May Plaza in Panama City following exchange of instruments of ratification of Panama Canal treaties--live]

[Text] Be quiet, slow down, slow down, slow down, easy now, easy, easy, slow down, slow down, slow down. Comrades, dear Panamanian people: You know well that I am not the protagonist of this victory. I am simply its spokesman because this victory belongs to the Panamanian people, to you present here. [applause, shouts]

Easy now. Several years ago our people and its leaders got together and swore before the altar of the fatherland that the process of negotiations which we were about to begin had to lead us to the eradication [as heard] and to the fluttering of a single flag over the national territory. Today, we are in the presence of the hemisphere's most outstanding leaders, of the men who did not set conditions when they supported us, such as President Lopez-Portillo of Mexico, for whom I request an applause [applause, shouts of "Mexico, Mexico"]; President Carlos Andres Perez, who is a fighting cock [applause, shouts of "Venezuela, Venezuela"]; in the presence of one of the Caribbean's most outstanding leaders, prime minister and chief of one of the most combative peoples, President [as heard] Manley of Jamaica [applause, shouts]; in the presence of this large crowd, which is so tightly packed that it leaves no room for even applause; in the presence of this large multitude to which we are saying we are back but now in the presence of the best fusiliers of this cause, such as President Lopez Michelsen of Colombia, who out of historic traditions [applause, shouts] and reasons of historic affection at no time asked for permission to support this people in its unequal fight.

Despite the fact that he took office only a few days ago, we also have here President Carazo, who is representing the Costa Rican people's will. [applause] And now that I mention Costa Rica, which is represented here by its great exponent, President Carazo, we must also remember out of imperative reasons and gratitude the former president who said that whatever Panama requests, Costa Rica supports--Daniel Oduber. [applause]

This large rally of a people who feel, think about and live the national cause has been possible because the U.S. presidency is currently occupied by a man who is close to the consciences of weak peoples--President Carter [applause, shouts]; a President, a President who does not speak of cannons but of reasons. And as soon as we placed the discussion of the Panamanian problem in the field of reason, we were able to solve it. And this President is here along with his great companion, Rosalynn, for whom I ask a kiss and a round of applause. [applause]

This rally, this unprecedented rally in the country's political history, this rally of people from our provinces, the entire national territory--Chiriqui, Veraguas, Cocle, Herrera, Los Santos, Panama, Colon, Darien and the poorest neighborhoods. The poorest neighborhoods of this city--this rally of people from those places is the surest way to give lie to [the idea that] the treaty signed by President Carter and General Torrijos lacks or is wanting the warmth of the people. Listen to this: [shouts]

People of Panama, I have asked you to make many sacrifices. I have asked you to have a great deal of commonsense. I have to thank you before these government leaders because you have been consistent and, if it were not for the self-effacing, courageous behavior and great sense of sacrifice that you have shown up to today, we would not have been able to solve the case of sovereignty over our territory. Therefore, Panamanian people, once again I tell you and swear before the altar of the homeland that I feel proud of you. [applause]

The country is faced with or rather now has to look for different models of development. Better times are coming. Better moments are coming. Times of optimism are coming which must find us united as we have always been but completely, without any leftover selfishness, hatred or rancor that we may have. I do not want a triumphant country--a country which through its efforts has set the example of how such a difficult, complicated problem was resolved through the route of negotiations--I do not want that country which has set this example to the world to be divided by hatreds which bring only misfortune. I do not want that country militating [militando] or thinking or not joining the process of work and development and seriousness which is involved in the responsible management of the accomplishments which we have achieved through the negotiations. [shouts]

There are many internal problems to be solved, but we cannot talk about them today because we have visitors. We have visitors and when we have visitors of such prominence we cannot talk about our problems, but this does not mean that we will not mention them later, okay? [applause] This does not mean that we will not mention them later and this does not mean that I am not going to go to every neighborhood and township to learn your desires because you are the masters in this country. [shouts]

With the conviction that we have reached a stage in which the struggle must continue, our attitude has to be one of wary optimism. There are many tasks still to be carried out. Both in remote areas and in areas close to our city, there are Panamanian mothers who will have to go to bed today without having given their children anything to eat. With this conviction we must inspire ourselves and continue to vow before the altar of the nation that we must continue struggling but with the same spirit of unity and combative spirit that we have maintained until today.

I have been able to achieve great objectives because I have had great support and a great people have been behind this leader. [applause]

Now, esteemed people, my dear people, now we are going to receive President Carter as a man who is profoundly moral, profoundly inclined toward the cause of the weak, a man with a profound sense of shame, a man who during our second meeting inspired in me the confidence that is only inspired by moral faces, a man who, although he might lose politically, although he might lose votes politically, had the conscience, the willingness of all leaders to hurl themselves without parachutes onto the stage of history. [applause, shouts]

It is in these circumstances that one distinguishes a prematurely born leader [sietemesino] from one who was carried full term. A great applause for him.

Mexican President Criticizes Treaties

PA162225Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2150 GMT 16 Jun 78 PA

[Text] Panama, 16 June (ACAN-EFE)--Speaking as a lawyer rather than as president of Mexico, Jose Lopez-Portillo criticized here today the treaties for which the instruments of ratification were exchanged by Panamanian Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos and U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

"As a lawyer, I regret that the U.S. Senate amendments (to the text of the treaties) leaves open the possibility of intervention by one state in the affairs of another, and that there is not ample affirmation that there will be no U.S. interference in the sovereignty of Panama's territory," Lopez-Portillo said.

The Mexican president was one of the few chiefs of state of the hemisphere who was not present in Washington on 7 September when Carter and Torrijos signed the new Panama Canal treaties.

Lopez-Portillo Departs Panama

PA170322Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0153 GMT 17 Jun 78 PA

[Excerpts] Panama City, 16 Jun (ACAN-EFE)--Mexican President Jose Lopez-Portillo returned to his country tonight after visiting Panama for a few hours.

Along with several other hemispheric presidents, Lopez-Portillo today attended the ceremony for the exchange of the ratification instruments for the new canal treaties, but tonight he is "notably absent" from his colleagues' multilateral meeting.

Panamanian Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos, U.S. President Jimmy Carter, Colombian President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen, Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo and Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley will discuss hemispheric cooperation tonight.

Reliable sources have unofficially told this agency that a joint declaration, currently being drafted, will probably be issued after the presidents' talks at the Panama Hotel.

The meeting, which according to several of those present includes "the most democratic hemispheric" rulers, is being held behind closed doors at the Panama Hotel amid strict security measures.

Heads of State Minisummit

PA170223Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0112 GMT 17 Jun 78 PA

[Report from Panama Hotel in Panama City by correspondent Eduardo Herrera Cedeno--presumably live]

[Text] The chiefs of state of Venezuela, Costa Rica, the United States, Colombia, Mexico [as heard], Jamaica and Panama are now meeting at the Bella Vista Room after participating in the Torrijos-Carter treaty ratification ceremonies. They have been meeting since 1900, discussing common problems and Latin American problems in general. According to political observers present at the hotel awaiting the results of the meeting, the presidents are discussing the proposals made by Torrijos and Carter at the rally which was held this evening.

A joint declaration is expected after this meeting, which will probably be made public tomorrow after the Torrijos-Carter breakfast. International news media have said that President Carter's speech was the presentation to Latin America of a plan for political and economic relations with these countries, which have many ties in every aspect with Washington.

After this meeting Carter may head for the Holiday Inn and the other heads of state will rest for a while before leaving for the Panamian Government's reception for the visitors at the golf club.

Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo Odio, Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley and Mexican President Jose Lopez-Portillo will leave for their respective countries after the reception at the golf club. Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez will return home tomorrow after holding a news conference at 0715 at the Panama Hotel's Bella Vista Room. The Colombian president will return to Bogota romorrow at approximately noon.

The visiting heads of state in the Bella Vista Room are meeting alone, without interpreters; that is, we only saw seven chairs in the room.

Minisummit Communique

PA1800010Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2144 GMT 17 Jun 78 PA

[Text of press communique signed at conclusion of meeting held in Panama City on 16 June 1978 attended by U.S. President Jimmy Carter, Panamanian Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera, Colombian President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen, Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo Odio, Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley and Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez--read by announcer from government press center at Continental Hotel in Panama City]

[Text] The presidents of Colombia, Costa Rica, the United States and Venezuela, the chief of government of Panama and the prime minister of Jamaica present in Panama City on the occasion of the exchange of the instruments of ratification for the Panama Canal treaties between the Republic of Panama and the United States of America, which constitute the culmination of a process in which they have been directly interested, expressed that these treaties represent a historic advance in inter-American relations.

These treaties symbolize a fundamental respect for sovereignty and a spirit of cooperation that may motivate all countries to focus on the difficult problems affecting the entire world.

They felt that the Panama Canal treaties show how we can all work together within a new spirit of cooperation in order to forge the future in accordance with our ideals and in order to resolve by peaceful means all areas of friction in the region.

They are determined to build on the basis of this example so that attention may be focused on cooperation and economic integration to promote socioeconomic development and thus strengthen solidarity among the peoples of America. For this reason, they promise to work actively, cooperating together and with other states.

In order to promote the cause of world peace they promise to do the following:

1. To work in order to implement the Tlaltelolco treaty for the banning of nuclear weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean.

2. To strengthen the mechanisms of the United Nations and the Organization of American States for the maintenance of peace.

3. To work for an effective regional limitation of conventional weapons on the basis of cooperation of both suppliers and buyers in order to put an end to their acquisition for offensive purposes. They are deeply concerned about the squandering of resources used to purchase weapons and have therefore felt encouraged by the decision made by the countries which signed the Ayacucho declaration to renew their intention to reach a new agreement in order to limit the acquisition of arms. They also expect that the Ayacucho example will be extended to include all Latin American countries and perhaps other areas as well.

4. To make use of their good offices and cooperation in order to encourage the solution of international conflicts and to reduce the areas of tension in the hemisphere. They expect that the patience and mutual respect which led to the successful canal treaties negotiations will contribute to leading other countries to resolve those problems and points of conflict in a mutually fruitful manner.

5. To consult on a broad range of international issues on a regular and permanent basis in order to reduce the differences that exist among national policies and increase the probabilities of reaching mutual agreements.

In order to promote a greater respect for human rights and to broaden the scope of international actions aimed at the defense of human dignity, they promised to do the following:

1. To strengthen the autonomy and scope of the Inter-American Human Rights Commission.

2. To work in order to put the American human rights convention into effect this year, the 30th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The leaders look with favor upon Costa Rica's offer that San Jose be the seat of a proposed inter-American human rights court, as they are aware of the advantages of such a seat.

3. To defend human rights and fundamental freedoms everywhere and to work in order to eliminate oppression.

4. To facilitate the development of conditions that promote democracy with effective popular participation. They particularly expressed their satisfaction over the fact that the will of the people of the Dominican Republic was freely expressed in the elections held last month and reiterated their hope that the electoral board will strictly abide by the honesty of a democratic process.

5. To work through international organizations for the strengthening of juridical principles and the political, social and economic rights of our peoples.

6. In order to advance toward a more just and equitable international system, to make sure that common multilateral negotiations, including those connected with the common fund and debts, are conducted promptly so that definite and significant results may be reached for the good of all countries, particularly developing ones.

In order to help raise the standard of living of the poor of the world they promise to do the following:

1. To help alleviate hunger and poverty while stressing the importance of the production of food products and studying the implications of a rapid demographic growth.

2. To complete the Geneva multilateral trade negotiations, thus reducing the barriers to trade and increasing the participation of the developing countries in a better world trade system.

3. To seek ways in which to improve the efficiency, growth, equity and stability of the markets for basic products and to try to put into effect the international sugar agreement, the international coffee agreement and other agreements on basic products, the purpose of which is to establish equitable prices for the products of developing countries. In particular, they felt that reaching equitable agreements of this kind will strengthen political stability and will promote regional solidarity while benefiting both producers and consumers.

4. To fully endorse the work carried out and the new increase in capital of the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank.

5. To give full support to the Caribbean group for cooperation in economic development and to other ways in which to promote the area's economic development.

6. They also wish to express their strong support for the negotiations at the United Nations for the conclusion of a treaty banning bribery and illegal payments in international transactions.

As they commit themselves to these objectives, they invite all states to join in this spirit of cooperation in order to work actively on behalf of peace, human rights, democratic governments and a just and equitable international economic order.

Torrijos Discusses Minisummit

PA172119Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 1808 GMT 17 Jun 78 PA

[Interview by Televisora Nacional reporter with Panamanian Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos at the Panama Hotel in Panama City--presumably recorded]

[Text] [Question] General, [words indistinct] in the latest meeting held with President Carter and the other Latin American chief of state, what were the results and the points that have been stressed in the communique?

[Answer] We stressed the point of economic cooperation in the communique. Carter will take that point to the Bonn meeting of the industrialized countries. This will be the point of view of the nonindustrialized countries, our concern over the prices of our export products. Those prices are well below production costs.

President [as heard] Manley made an excellent exposition [of this point of view] and we decided that several countries would prepare a document to present our point of view so that they [presumably the industrialized nations] will have firsthand knowledge about what the underdeveloped countries in our hemisphere think about their meetings.

We agreed that we were not sure about whether they conduct those meetings under the philosophical concept of "let us see what we can do for ourselves," disregarding that of "let us see what we can do for all." Another concern which will be metnioned in the communique deals with the fact that it will soon be 30 years since the suggestion was made at the international level to have countries sign the human rights treaty or pact. So far, only eight countries have done so. The 30th anniversary of the meeting that created the commitment to sign the human rights charter will soon take place.

We hope that in Costa Rica, where the idea first came to light, on the 30th anniversary--in about 3 months, I believe--there will be 11 signatories to this treaty. This is the minimum number of signatories required for the pact to become effective.

[Question] General, yesterday you were visibly moved as a result of the mobilization of a multitude in Panama to greet the President of the United States and six Latin American chiefs of state. This is a personal question, the first and last: How do you feel?

[Answer] I am very satisfied. Yesterday the people made valid that saying of mine that when a people are led in a cause in which they believe, they respond to it and militate for it. As chief of state, when I saw that multitude of Panamanians with a militant attitude, patriotically rejoicing for having achieved their objectives, I had to feel very, very satisfied.

However, I am not drunk with victory. Great support implies a great responsibility for the leadership and a profound obligation of not failing the people who supported the cause, led by the government, for the liberation of the enclave.

[Reporter] Thank you, General, for your statements for Televisora Nacional.

Venezuelan President Press Conference

PA171600Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1237 GMT 17 Jun 78 PA

[Press conference by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez at Bella Vista Room of Panama Hotel, Panama City--live]

[Excerpts] [Question] [Words indistinct] you know that when we Colombian newsmen speak to you, or when Venezuelan newsmen interview the Colombian president, we always bring up the question of the marine and submarine delimitation talks between the two countries. The question may be a trite one, but do you not feel frustrated at not being able to reach an agreement with the Colombian Government on the delimitation of the marine and submarine areas between both countries during your administration?

[Answer] Not frustration because I am an optimistic man, a man of action. I believe that just goals are always attained but that nothing is given to man easily, nothing has been given to nations without great struggles. I feel that the Panama Canal treaties are a challenge to us, to several countries of Latin America with certain problems. The demarcation of marine and submarine areas between Venezuela and Colombia must be faced with the same boldness, the same decision with which the Panamanian question was faced, a problem which was much more serious than the one before us. I believe it is necessary to create an awareness in both nations regarding this reality and to thing with a sense of history that Latin America is on the way to integration. This will make it easier for us to settle our problems than it was for the United States and Panama to solve theirs. The Bolivian sea outlet problem, for instance, is much older than the Panama Canal question. It goes back to the past century and fills up with deep concern because there is no doubt that Bolivia has the right to a sea outlet.

I feel that this problem is of the highest priority for our countries. There is also the controversy between Peru and Ecuador in connection with the Amazon, and the problem between Chile and Argentina over the Beagle Channel. These are problems which are a challenge to the Latin American community and as such must be faced by us.

[Question] Ricardo Lince of MATUTINO of Panama: Can you tell us, Mr President, of the efforts by your government for an OAS investigation of human rights in Nicaragua?

[Answer] I am very pleased to hear Richardo Lince's voice at this meeting. We, the Venezuelan exiles of 1949, 1950 and 1958, always found in this Panamanian newsman a great friend, a great ally, a man who truly felt the problems experienced by exiles, not only the Venezuelans but other Latin Americans. And now, as evidence of his great concern for Latin America, he asks me a question about a country which in the past few months--not to say years--has been experiencing extremely painful circumstances. All of us present here are aware of it. Those who listen to us also now know that the Nicaraguan people are living in a decisive hour for their destiny. Without mentioning the fact that both nations, Venezuela and Nicaragua, are Latin American countries, we should emphasize that both nations have signed the UN Charter [words indistinct], the OAS Charter and have also approved the declaration of human rights. It is in the name of these multilateral commitments that we have been pointing out the need for continental solidarity for a people who in a way are the victims of a denial of their rights, to use a euphemism, as I dislike to do. We will be steadfast in this position. At the upcoming OAS conference of foreign ministers and other upcoming meetings, we will insist upon the need for the human rights commission--which was created for this purpose--to go to Nicaragua to view firsthand any violations of human rights. At the meeting of chiefs of state here in Panama, we have discussed a way to speed up the signing of the declaration of human rights subscribed in San Jose, Costa Rica, in 1969, which establishes a court of human rights. Last night, we dwelled on this subject at length and unanimously agreed that the six governments represented here would make an effort to celebrate the 33d anniversary of the UN Declaration of Human Rights by ratifying the Costa Rican agreement.

[Question] Alfonso Ciardi of the ASSOCIATED PRESS: Can you tell us if in the meeting held last night there were any discussion of the presence of Cuban troops in Africa and what the United States could do if Latin America in that sense [words indistinct].

[Answer] The situation in Africa is extremely complex. As I have said, I am deeply concerned about the presence of Cuban troops in Africa, but no less concerned about the presence of Belgian and French troops. Moreover, there is something which worries us more, and that is the underhanded and insincere game of the large Western powers who, while on one hand proclaim their support for the black African people struggling for liberation, self-determination and self-government, on the other maintain an unholy alliance with the South African forces which are responsible for the entire tragedy of that region, which is so close to us Latin Americans, especially those of us from the Caribbean. We feel that the African people are part of us, an integral part of our being. We cannot remain passive when we see how, because of the interests of a few transnationals which are exploiting the people of Africa, countries which would gain the admiration and gratitude of the whole world. We are the world, the underdeveloped, those who occupy two-thirds of the world and include more than two-thirds of mankind.

Consequently, the African problem must be seen in a global context. We must censure the insincere attitudes and devious intentions with which the two large superpowers and the two great blocs act in African territory. Of course, nothing would give me more pleasure than knowing that all foreign troops have left African territory and that the United Nations, has assumed the global responsibility of securing Africa for the Africans.

[Question] Pardon this indiscrete question, Mr President, but I am truly curious to know what you would have told the Panamanian people if you had been able to address them at the 5 May Plaza. At the rostrum, it appeared that you wanted to speak to them. [Words indistinct] of Costa Rica, to speak of the self-determination of Belize, it was reported. Does this mean that now that the Latin American crusade for the nationalization of the Panama Canal has ended successfully, the governments of Latin America, and yours in particular, will seek to obtain the incorporation of Belize as the 27th independent nation of Latin America?

[Answer] I think that my presence and happy face told the Panamanian people everything I had to say to them. Regarding the second part of your question, in truth it is a thorny problem which affects the Caribbean region, Latin America and especially the nations of Central America. Venezuela has maintained a discrete and cooperative attitude so as to contribute to finding a solution which will make possible the prompt independence of Belize. I would prefer not to dwell at length on this subject because I must tell you that in fact I am cooperating actively, trying to find a satisfactory solution for both Guatemala and the people of Belize. There is no doubt--why deny it?--that the meeting I held yesterday with British Minister Ted Rowlands was, among other things, to receive information on the situation of the independence of Belize and to discuss some viewpoints on (?strategy).

[Question] Mr President, you have been a standard bearer of human rights and civil liberties. You committed Argentine President General Videla when he visited Caracas, as you committed Bolivian President Gen Hugo Banzer and Gen Francisco Morales Bermudez to holding elections in their countries to open the doors to democracy. My question is the following--and I must also mention your fortunate intervention in the Dominican Republic case--have you spoken to your friend General Torrijos about the need for opening [word indistinct] democratic and institutional so there will be elections in this country, since there has been or is a de facto regime which has lasted 10 years already and which is facing a growing and important opposition?

[Answer] Full-time democrats such as I feel obliged to try to expand faith in democracy to include all people on earth, especially to our fraternal countries of Latin America. The Venezuelan Constitution's beautiful preamble, which defines the Venezuelan fatherland, orders us to try to expand by peaceful means the democratic system to include all people on earth. Consequently, I am not only obeying my feelings and my principles, but I am also obeying my country's constitution, which I swore to respect as Venezuelan chief of state.

We are worried about situations in the Latin American continent. We sincerely feel that there is no better government than that born of the people's will. We may find bad examples, government leaders who have not lived up to their responsibilities, government leaders who have violated their oaths to their congresses, but none of these circumstances can prove to us that their ethical values or mode of existence are superior to those of the democratic system. The providential [providencial] man is contradictory to the very nature of man. The man who supports himself with forces which are not the forces of the people is infringing on the rights of a community. If we should accept that a man can self-elect himself as representative of a national community, we would simply be admitting fascism, Nazism and totalitarianism in all their forms. It is a question of how the man who chooses himself to be the master of a nation's destiny thinks. [sentence as heard] Naturally, we reject this and will struggle with all the strength of our faith and humanitarian spirit against those realities, no matter where they may be found, on the extreme left or right--to use stereotyped terminology--or in the center.

In my talks in Venezuela with the government leaders who have visited us, we have touched on these subjects of democracy, the errors made by us, the public men, which often have given rise to those movements, the lack of understanding of certain national situations, the failure to open the doors to make possible coexistence and consensus on the fundamental aspects of a country's political evolution.

I must say that I have faith, based on my talks with him, that his essentially democratic feelings and the awareness he must have of the gallant and extraordinary historic role he has played in our Latin America will lead him to understand that there is no greater glory than the one he has earned with his perseverance, courage and healthy interpretation of the role he had to fill in the Panamanian Republic.

As for the rest, I have heard him say publicly, and have seen it with my own eyes, that he will open the doors to all Panamanians and a democratic process will be initiated, a process which has already started. The fact is that there have already been popular elections here, the last being the plebiscite which gave two-thirds approval to the treaties between Panama and the United States.

In fact, I read or heard somewhere that there might have been some conditions on our support for Panama. This is not so. We have made no personal pact. The government leaders of Latin America have acted in the name of our peoples and in defense of the Panamanian people.

[Question] [Words indistinct] of LATIN-REUTER: Two questions, the first related to Latin America, relations with Uruguay; and the second, what is the present situation in OPEC regarding the price of petroleum?

[Answer] Venezuela's international policy is based on the principle of ideological pluralism; that is to say, we in Latin America do not judge the quality of the political regime before establishing diplomatic relations, believing that while we debate political questions economic integration is delayed. This integration will be the mainstay of a genuine political stability in the continent and will effectively and permanently establish democracy here.

We were very sorry to have to suspend our relations with the Republic of Uruguay, once the great example and incentive of our nations subjected to dictatorial regimes. Unfortunately, that nation's violation of the right of asylum led us to fulfill our obligation to express our protest by breaking diplomatic relations.

As for OPEC, Venezuela's position is well known. We start from a point of extraordinary significance in the North-South controversy, which is the declaration of Algeria signed by the sovereigns and chiefs of state of OPEC member countries and in which we offered OPEC as an instrument in the negotiations to reach agreements and understandings between the developed and developing nations regarding the new international economic order. Consequently, that will be our future policy in OPEC. We have no specific interest in increasing the price of petroleum. We are not a cartel. We are not a monopoly which selfishly seeks benefits for our people. What we want, what we seek is the creation of a relationship of exchange between the big nations and developing nations which is just, fair, balanced and interdependent in the exact meaning we give that concept. We want the raw materials or basic commodities of our nations and the work of our men and women to have an equivalent value to the manufactured goods, technology and labor of the developed nations of the world. Since the only instrument we have in our hands to make the need for a new international economic order felt by the big nations of the world is petroleum, that is why the price of petroleum will continue increasing.

Naturally, there is another motivation. This is a scarce, nonrenewable resource. The situation we are presently experiencing of an apparent excess in demand [as heard] and which has kept petroleum prices frozen temporarily is not a valid one. Petroleum continues to be a scarce product. The energy crisis is the gravest problem, the most serious one experienced by man in our time and which still has not been given a satisfactory solution because the large nations--the haughty owners of technology--have not found a substitute for petroleum. Solutions exist, but apparently these are so costly, much more than petroleum, that they are completely impractical.

[Question] Greetings, Mr President. This is Omaira de Leon of the Panama State Broadcasting Service. At present, the people of Guyana are about to vote in a referendum to approve or reject a new constitution of a completely socialist type. I would like to hear your opinion on this new constitution.

[Answer] We sincerely think that every nation has a right to adopt the system of government its people approve. The important thing is that the people be given a genuine and true opportunity to express their mandate freely. I have no reason to think that this will not occur in the Republic of Guyana. I could give the same answer regarding any nation of the world. What is honest and ethical is that no government leader or group of government leaders should make use of any kind of subterfuge to present as a national consultation what has already been fixed or arranged to produce certain predetermined results.

[Question] Greetings, Mr President. My name is Oscar Iborra of Radio Miami. Mr President, a few weeks ago you and Mr Carter were crudely criticized by Balaguer for what the international press reported was intervention in the internal affairs of that country. Would you please comment.

[Answer] Without hesitation and feeling it was doing its duty, Venezuela decided to present to the OAS a warning regarding what was thought would be a disavowal of the people's will expressed in free elections in the Dominican Republic. There were three OAS representatives present--former President Pastrana of Colombia, Mendez Montenegro of Guatemala and Galo Plaza of Ecuador--who were requested by the Dominican Republic to witness the popular verdict of the Dominican people. We are part of the OAS, so we had the right to ask that the elections be respected since the Dominian Government itself asked for OAS observers.

In addition, I sincerely believe that, together with the existence of sovereignty as the self-determination of people, self-determination is something which we--the nations of the world--are obligated and have a duty to safeguard and comment on. When the OAS and the United Nations did not exist and nations were totally isolated, without the establishment of these supranational rights and duties, this would undoubtedly have been intervention. But I do not consider now and will not consider in the future asking that the people's will be respected, that the mandate expressed by the people in free elections be respected by a government, as intervention in the internal affairs of another state.

Perez, Liberal Party Leaders Meet

PA181210Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 17 Jun 78 PA

[Text] This morning, on his way to Tocumen airport, Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez stopped for about 30 minutes at the Venezuelan Embassy in Panama, in Altos del Golf, to meet with several representatives of the opposition Liberal Party.

President Perez arrived with Panamanian Foreign Ministry adviser Dr Diogenes de la Rosa. The topic that the Liberal leaders discussed with Carlos Andres Perez has not been disclosed but it is understood that they talked about the legalization of political parties and their participation in the elections.

The Liberal group included David Samudio, Jaime Ortega, Dr Arnulfo Escalona and Dr Joaquin Fernando Franco. A few weeks ago Samudio was in Caracas and on that occasion met with President Perez to discuss Panama's political opening.

This station has learned that Panamenists refused to attend the meeting with the Venezuelan president.

Colombian President's Remarks Reported

PA180357Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Jun 78 PA

[Text] Panama City--President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen today formally declined to assume the leadership of the Liberal Party [PL] upon conclusion of his constitutional mandate on 7 August.

I could not pretend to exercise such leadership when I have never been the party's chief, Lopez said in answer to a question in that regard. Lopez' leadership had been announced by the top PL leaders following the victory of Liberal candidate Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala.

Lopez added that the results of the 4 June election cannot be interpreted as a setback for the government. He noted that if one takes into consideration the votes garnered by Turbay Ayala and the Alvarist sector, which is the other wing of the government coalition, there would be talk of an overwhelming government victory. Nevertheless, he noted that prior to the elections he had said that the election was in no way a plebiscite in favor of or against his government.

Lopez admitted that his administration is winding down [desgaste] but said that this was natural not only in Colombia but in other countries of the world as well.

Meanwhile, Colombia today ruled out the possibility of concluding an international agreement to stabilize coffee prices on the international market. The categorical announcement was made by President Lopez Michelsen in answer to a question on this topic during the news conference he held here today independently of the summit meeting of the seven heads of state.

Lopez said in this regard that as long as the United States insists on keeping prices at the level of 70 cents or 75 cents we have nothing to negotiate. He added that the U.S. position is far too distant from the reality of the international market and the prices that have prevailed in it lately.

Lopez thus ruled out the possibility of continuing talks to create a fund to stabilize coffee export prices by common agreement of the producing and soncuming countries. We had promoted the initiative in a proposal he made last year to his Brazilian colleague. At that time, coffee prices had started dropping after having reached a record high of $3.30 per pound.

Lopez revealed that the Colombian and Venezuelan governments have already reached agreements in principle for the delimitation of their marine and submarine borders. During the news conference, Lopez Michelsen was questioned by Radio Cadena Nacional reporters about the statements made by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez to the effect that some Colombian leaders had lacked courage to reach a final settlement in that regard.

Lopez answered that statements of that type are a surprise to him. He then said that the two governments had agreed to submit the agreements in principle reached during the negotiations to consultations in their respective countries. He said that Venezuela had the first opportunity to submit the agreements to consultation with the Venezuelan Armed Forces and political parties but that no response has been forthcoming thus far.

Lopez added that there will be no interference from third parties in these negotiations and that Venezuela's [as heard] decision in that regard will be irrevocable.

President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen today disclosed here that the delicate nature of the negotiations conducted among the United States, Panama and Colombia in connection with the zone and the canal rights could have poisoned Colombian-Panamanian relations. Nonetheless, he stressed that, on the contrary, the decisions made by each country's government made it possible to strengthen even further the relations between the two bordering countries.

During a news conference, President Lopez Michelsen affirmed that instead of confrontation there had been broad cooperation on Colombia's part. The statesman added that Colombia could not attempt to interfere in the negotiations between Panama and the United States with greater claims than those of the first world power, a nation which, he said, has made huge concessions in this case. [sentence as heard]

Lopez Michelsen rejected the political doubts that exist in Colombia regarding Colombian-Panamanian treaty and affirmed that our country's rights have been fully safeguarded. He noted that on many occasions the internal political game and the lack of information found among Colombians do not allow them to understand facts clearly and exactly.

According to the president, the notes signed last November by Colombia and Panama have been released to the public and do not constitute a secret. Those notes establish Colombia's rights.

Costa Rican President Comments

PA171617Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0457 GMT 17 Jun 78 PA

[Text] Panama City, 16 Jun (AFP)--During a news conference held here today, Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo stressed the importance of projects to integrate the Panamanian and Costa Rican borders and to delimit the maritime borders with Panama. Shortly before the news conference, Carazo and Panamanian Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos Herrara installed the two bilateral commissions that will be in charge of discussing these matters.

In addition, Carazo said that he would be willing to allow former Panamanian President Arnulfo Arias to reside in Costa Rica. He also announced his government's decision to expropriate the farm El Muercielago owned by Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza, saying that it is needed to expand the Santa Rosa National Park. The farm is located in the Costa Rican Province of Guanacaste.

Carazo also reiterated that the decision to prevent U.S. financier Roberto Lee Vesco from returning to Costa Rica will be upheld. He denied that the decision interferes with the judiciary branch, which at the present time has a case pending against Vesco. The case requires Vesco's presence in Costa Rica.

Carazo is scheduled to leave for Costa Rica today.

Carter Concludes Visit

PA171904 [Editorial Report PA] Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish at 1837 GMT on 17 June broadcasts a live relay from Tocumen International Airport of the departure of U.S. President Jimmy Carter and those accompanying him on his visit to the Republic of Panama.

According to the announcer, President Carter arrives from the Canal Zone via helicopter. After landing, Carter deplanes and proceeds along a protocol line, shaking hands with Panamanian officials, including Genral Torrijos and his wife. The President, Mrs Carter, and those accompanying them are then described by the announcer as climbing the steps of the presidential plane, where the President pauses to wave to the crowd before entering. The plane begins taxiing moments later and is airborne at 1847 GMT, with the announcer saying that "this is a beautiful and sunshiny day that he [Carter] will never forget." The live relay concludes at 1848 GMT.

ARNULFO ARIAS SAYS TORRIJOS MUST GO

PA190348Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2000 GMT 18 Jun 78 PA

[Excerpts] San Jose, 18 Jun (ACAN-EFE)--Former Panamanian President Arnulfo Arias believes that Gen Omar Torrijos must withdraw from the government in order to restore democracy to Panama.

He expressed this belief in an interview granted in Panama City to newsman Eduardo Ulibarri, special correspondent for the San Jose newspaper LA NACION.

Arias said, "This fellow, this dictator, must go." He also said: "It is impossible to work with the government. We do not want to join or cooperate with them."

Asked about his return from Miami, where he had been living in exile, Arias said: "I had to come back to my country sometime, to see my family and friends. Besides, in the past few months several delegations came to Miami to ask me to return, so I decided to come back."

He said, "I have not returned to try to be president, but to act as any ordinary citizen who can offer his voice and conscience to help choose a new government."

Regarding his talks with various groups, he said that these groups were seeking "a return to the democratic system, like the one in Costa Rica," and that the process to form a coalition has made extensive advances. He added, "there is consensus regarding the democratic objective that we are after." He said that there will be a central committee made up of representatives from all groups to discuss and decide what measures must be adopted.

He said that the situation in Panama is "very bad, there is hunger, distrust and unrest." Arias said that, despite his harsh criticism of Panama's present rulers, he has not been threatened or pressured by them.

GUATEMALA

TWO GROUPS CLAIM KILLING OF 17 SOLDIERS

PA161220Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0128 GMT 16 Jun 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 15 Jun (AFP)--Two clandestine organizations here today claimed credit for the attack which cost the lives of 17 soldiers, thus sowing confusion concerning this bloody incident, it has been reported. The Guatemalan Labor Party, communist, issued a message saying that the attack was a reply "with revolutionary violence to the repressive government forces which carried out the massacre in Panzos."

Panzos is a small town in northern Guatemala where 43 peasants died recently during a clash with soldiers stationed in the area.

According to an official report, the death of the 17 military patrolmen yesterday was caused by the explosion of a mine which in turn blew up the vehicle in which they were riding. The other leftist party which claimed credit for the attack was the Poor People's Guerrilla Army, some of whose members called the newspapers, it was reported here.

Deaths Seen as 'Plot'

PA161221Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0140 GMT 16 Jun 78 PA

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 15 Jun (AFP)--The attack in which 17 soldiers died yesterday is "part of a plot to disrupt the inauguration of President-elect Romeo Lucas," Interior Minister Donaldo Alvarez said here today. Romeo Lucas will take office on 1 July.

Alvarez said that the victims who died in the wake of the explosion of a mine under their car in the southern part of the capital "were peasants too," apparently in reference to a communique issued by the outlawed Guatemalan Labor Party (communist) which claimed credit for the attack as a "reply to the Panzos massacre."

President Threatens 'Hard Line'

PA171934Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1813 GMT 17 Jun 78 PA

[Excerpts] Guatemala City, 17 Jun (ACAN)-(EFE)--Guatemalan President Kjell Eugenio Laugerud Garcia has offered to adopt a "hard line" to control violence and subversion in the country. Approached prior to the inauguration of the national theater last night, Laugerud Garcia referred to the recent dynamite attack which killed 17 military police and seriously wounded another eight policemen.

"If they want to opt for the hard way, that is what they will get," said Laugerud Garcia, adding that he has not dismissed the possibility of imposing a "state of siege" which entails the suspension of constitutional rights. The president admitted there is "a plot to overthrow the government" either to "obstruct or prevent the 1 July presidential change of command," but guaranteed that "I will permit no such thing."

"They had better not force me to use the stick because then, because of a few wretches, all the people will pay the consequences," Laugerud Garcia warned.

BOMB EXPLODES IN MILITARY BUILDING 15 June

PA161225Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2233 GMT 15 Jun 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 15 Jun (AFP)--It has been reported that a bomb exploded today in the military reserves building in the southern part of the country, causing property damage but no casualties. The explosion took place a few hours after 17 military policemen were killed by terrorists in the suburbs of the capital.

VICE PRESIDENT TO HEAD DELEGATION TO BELIZE NEGOTIATIONS

PA171444Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0350 GMT 16 Jun 78 PA

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 15 Jun (AFP)--It was announced here today that the delegation that will participate in the future negotiations over Belize, the territory Guatemala is claiming from Great Britain, will be presided over by Vice President-elect Francisco Villagran Kramer. Before being sworn in, Villagram Kramer will participate in the first round of talks to be held in Miami, Florida, with the British delegation headed by Ted Rowlands. Also participating in the talks will be Foreign Minister Adolfo Molina Orantes, former Guatemalan Ambassador to the United Nations Rafael Castillo Valdez, and probably the foreign minister of the new administration to be installed on 1 July.

HONDURAS

CHIEF OF STATE REPORTEDLY TO BE HOSPITALIZED

PA181508Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1457 GMT 18 Jun 78 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 18 Jun (ACAN-EFE)--It was learned unofficially here today, Sunday, that Honduran chief of state Gen Juan Alberto Melgar Castro will be admitted to a private health center in this capital for a complete medical examination because of health problems. The source, which is close to the presidential palace, did not identify the illness of the chief of state, but it can be recalled that over a year ago, Melgar Castro was hospitalized for 3 days and that within the past 3 months he went to the United States, where he was treated for several days at a military medical facility.

NICARAGUA

TRIAL AGAINST 'THE 12' DECLARED NULL

PA170341Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2330 GMT 16 Jun 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 16 Jun (ACAN-EFE)--The court of appeals of the city of Masaya today declared void all that has been done in connection with the trial against "the 12," a Nicaraguan group that has remained in belligerent opposition from abroad against Gen Anastasio Somoza Debayle's regime. "The 12" had arrest warrants issued against them for the alleged commitment of six crimes, including "association for criminal purposes" and other charges connected with the country's internal security.

When the group announced that it would return to the country to fight for the formation of a broad opposition front, the government banned their entry into the country. Nonetheless, the Court of Appeals of Masaya today unexpectedly declared void due to procedural defects everything that the first criminal judge of the district had done. According to the court of appeals, the lower court judge did not meet the requirement of hearing the deposition of "the defendants" or including in their file any evidence that "the defendants have not been located." As a result of this court ruling, Judge Roberto Arias Ramos this afternoon revoked the arrest warrants issued last week against "the 12."

COMMENTATORS RAP WESTERN MEDDLING IN ZAIRE

FL172235Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Jun 78 FL

[Armando Lopez Junco commentary]

[Text] The European Economic Community, NATO and the International Monetary Fund, which are political, military and economic tools respectively of the United States and its allies in Western Europe, have undertaken new measures to bolster the corrupt regime of Mobutu Sese Seko in Zaire, the former Belgian Congo. A Copenhagen meeting of EC foreign ministers and another in Brussels of experts from 11 countries, which were held this week, agreed to grant credits to Mobutu in the amount of $100 million short term and 900 million for intermediate and long term as part of the economic aid to his regime.

In the military sphere, as is known, Belgian and French paratroopers, in addition to troops from Morocco and other reactionary regimes of the area, are already in the Zairian Province of Shaba forming a so-called inter-African security force under NATO control to carry out the agreements adopted by the warmongering organization in a meeting held in Paris last week.

For its part, the United States has reinforced an air bridge charged with transporting to Zaire the troops and war material. If the control of Zaire is assigned to NATO in the military aspect, the International Monetary Fund, on behalf of the imperialists, will guarantee their interests in looting the rich African country. The supposed economic aid will be managed by the fund, whose officials will direct Zaire's central bank and will control the country's key economic posts to try to stop Mobutu and his clique from continuing their unrestrained theft as they have done in the past. These officials, the Belgian daily LE SOIR revealed, will have very broad powers.

Since achieving independence from the Belgian yoke in 1960, Zaire's wealth has been the object of intense conflict among NATO superpowers, which fight among themselves for its exploitation. In 1961 Belgium plotted the secession of Shaba Province, which at the time was called Katanga, to perpetuate the interests of the Union Miniere du Haut-Katanga, later on called GECOMIN, a subsidiary of the transnational General Society of Minerals of Belgium. This plot led to the overthrow and assassination of then Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba.

But Belgian economic hegemony gave up ground when powerful U.S., British, French, FRG and Japanese firms arrived in the country. In just the past decade, the United States has invested $410 million in Zaire and has announced credits for this year amounting to an additional 29 million. According to statistics, the United States takes out of Zaire 74 percent of its needs in cobalt, 17 percent in germanium, 14 percent in tantalium, 10 percent in industrial diamonds and 7 percent in manganese. The FRG is second to Washington in interests in Zaire. In addition to a missile proving grounds in Shaba Province--more than 100,000 square km, which almost covers the country's surface [as heard], under the control of Bonn and secretly agreed to by Mobutu--the FRG also has very ambitious projects. It proposes to build a steel mill with the participation of Italian and Belgian interests. Mercedes Benz and Volkswagen have had a large portion of the local market for several years.

France is not far behind with respect to economic interests in Zaire. Thirty percent of its copper comes from that country. Also present in Zaire are important French groups such as the (CGE Electric), some of them associated with British, North American and Japanese firms. A list of potential investors in Zaire which was published in 1976 revealed the following projected foreign investments: FRG 19 projects, France 9, the United States and Great Britain 3 each, Switzerland and Japan 2 each.

Zaire, especially the mining Province of Shaba, possesses rich deposits of manganese, gold, zinc, silver, tin and coal and rare minerals such as germanium, tantalum, beryllium, cadmium and monazite, many of which are decisive in the economy of the great capitalist countries, such as the United States, Western Europe and Japan. But despite all this, only 4 percent of the country's income goes to the hands of the rural population, which constitutes 85 percent of the nation.

The wealth is distributed among the imperialist concessionaires and in a much lower proportion, of course, among Mobutu and his henchmen. According to the FAO, the UN specialized organization on food and agriculture, the population receives food supplies well below its needs. The monthly income of the peasants averages abour $1.50. This miserable exploitation, this looting of the country's wealth is what the United States intends to perpetuate in Zaire--the reason for convoking the meetings in Paris, Copenhagen and Brussels and why the so-called African security forces were created as well as the announced economic aid to Zaire.

AFP Cites PRELA

PA161321Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0503 GMT 16 Jun 78 PA

[Text] Havana, 15 Jun (AFP)--The Cuban news agency PRENSA LATINA has accused the U.S. Government of engaging in "a great publicity battle" to sell the world "the story made up in Washington" blaming Cuba for the events in Shaba, Zaire.

"Once again," said PRENSA LATINA in a commentary released today, Thursday, "the CIA (intelligence agency) does its dirty work for the U.S. Government. In its long and dark history, the CIA has engaged in numerous criminal and diversionary activities."

U.S. legislators, the agency pointed out, agreed in pointing to the "inconsistency of the so-called evidence" submitted by the government to the Senate committee following a number of "sensational announcements aimed at conditioning and influencing world public opinion."

"It is surprising," PRENSA LATINA added, "that the U.S. Government should try to lead public opinion to accept such ridiculous charges about Cuba's connection with and responsibility for the Shaba incidents."

"More so," it concludes, "when the Washington government knows its accusations are not true and that it lies to fabricate an excuse for its intervention in African affairs and its sponsorship of the so-called pan-African force, which is nothing but criminal interventionist bungling."

Further PRELA Comment

FL172100Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Jun 78 FL

[By PRENSA LATINA correspondent (Bob Rudka)]

[Text] The dissent reached international dimensions when President Carter stepped up his cold war rhetoric against an alleged Soviet-Cuban participation in Africa, stirring up fears that world tension would aggravate. The issue is not to abandon or maintain North American interests in Africa but rather how to better protect those interests in the near term and over long periods of time, on which two general directions are apparent.

On one side are the forces of Zbigniew Brzezinski centered in the National Security Council, which he heads, together with the Central Intelligence Agency and the Pentagon. Brzezinski, a fanatical anticommunist who favors the cold war, in general appears to be trying to convince the President that the events developing in Africa are the direct result of Soviet and Cuban meddling, the most serious challenge since the end of the cold war and the beginning of detente.

The second faction is the group of young officials centered in the State Department and Andrew Young, who by and large has the support of Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. For this group, direct military participation in Africa has been discarded. They support a selective military assistance together with greatly enlarged economic aid and the implementation of a policy directed at producing a peaceful evolution toward majority rule in Namibia, Zimbabwe and, at a later date, in South Africa itself. They consider this to be the cornerstone of a correct North American policy.

During the past 2 weeks, while President Carter was adopting the hard rhetoric of Brzezinski's line--especially in his Annapolis speech--concrete actions have been much more subdued. It has been observed that the concrete efforts of Brzezinski's group and the CIA, aimed at obtaining Congress' approval of covert aid for supplies to undermine Neto's government in Angola, have been rejected. It is also significant to note that the State Department has resisted France's insinuations to grant full support to a pan-African security force which would go beyond the Zaire operation.

Likewise, while discussing policy revision, the State Department won a battle over the Security Council when the latter suggested that more aid and arms should be supplied to Morocco to transform that country into an interventionist force which would rapidly react in favor of Western interests.

Nevertheless, Brzezinski has also won some points. According to recent revelations, the CIA has continued to conduct covert operations in Africa, getting involved in such type of actions in Egypt, Sudan and the Horn of Africa. However, while convincing President Carter to adopt a rhetorical hard-line position against the Soviet Union and Cuba in Africa--which some analysts consider could be part of an attempt by the President to strengthen his declining popularity in the country by presenting a strong image--Brzezinski has at the same time provoked a strong international reaction against his policies. The use of such rhetoric by the President has produced an unfavorable reaction in some senators, such as Church and McGovern, who accuse Carter of exaggerating Soviet-Cuban participation in Africa.

It remains to be seen the effect of those reactions to President Carter's acceptance of Brzezinski's advice as long as he remains one of the President's closest aides. Meanwhile, the State Department group has continued to move forward its policy for a more moderate approach to Africa's fluid events. It appears that time alone and the implementation of concrete North American policies for Africa will sooner or later tell who prevails in the war effort on foreign policy for Africa.

RAUL CASTRO TOURS EASTERN ARMY BASES

FL1718102Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 17 Jun 78 FL

[Text] Army Gen Raul Castro, second secretary of the PCC and minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR], has toured military installations in the territory defended by the Eastern Army. The FAR minister was accompanied by Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida Bosque, member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo; Division Gen Senen Casas Regueiro, first vice minister-chief of the general staff and member of the PCC Central Committee; Col Andres Rosendo Ojeda, chief of the Eastern Army; and other FAR chiefs and officers.

The tour included the Transporte Oriente and Desembarco del Granma military enterprises, Santiago de Cuba's Camilo Cienfuegos Military Vocational School, and the military community under construction at (Rajoyoga), a suburb of Santiago de Cuba's capital. The Transporte Oriente military enterprise that was visited by Army Gen Raul Castro has been declared a center of heroic tradition and has been congratulated several times for its production achievements. Presently it is trying to fulfill the annual production plan by 15 December. At the center is an exhibit on the technical gains of the enterprise, inventions, and rationalization work and parts manufactured by the workers.

The FAR minister referred to the importance of military enterprises manufacturing as many as possible of the parts needed by them, and pointed out that Transporte Oriente will have a machine shop for that purpose. Raul, Almeida and others toured the different shops. The party second secretary chatted with the workers, among them Comrade Dora Figarola, who told him that when she first arrived in the enterprise she had no technical qualifications and in 2 years had trained to become assistant lathe operator. During the visit the projected expansion of the enterprise was discussed.

Another location toured by Army Gen Raul Castro was the military community under construction at (Rajayoga), where 60 apartments are already occupied. Another 60 apartments are ready to be delivered to the tenants, 340 are about to be completed and 100 more are under construction. The FAR minister showed interest in the construction of the community's social installations and asked if the civilian workers were included in the distribution of housing, to which he was given an affirmative answer.

Army Gen Raul Castro and Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida held lively talks with construction workers at the site, where the Soviet prefabricated panel system is being applied. Raul mentioned difficulties encountered in the past in the construction of housing because of the limited quantities of resources and the large number of projects under construction in the country simultaneously, and added that in the next 5-year period we will made great progress in this sector. He stated that a cement plant is about to be completed in Cienfuegos that will produce twice the amount produced in Cuba when the revolution triumphed.

Raul discussed with the workers the present international situation and referred to the unbridled smear campaign that imperialists and Maoists, in close alliance, have unleashed against the Soviet Union and Cuba. Prior to departure, Army Gen Raul Castro asked the construction workers at (Rajayoga) to decide on the name to be given to the new military community.

Joy and jubilation characterized the welcome given to Raul and Almeida at the Camilo Cienfuegos Military Vocational School in Santiago de Cuba. The two visitors talked with the students about sports, studies, discipline, care and maintenance of the buildings that the revolution has built for them. The FAR Minister told students who had gathered in an impromptu rally that the new centers of this type will house 600 students so that they may receive better attention in all spheres of work. Army Gen Raul Castro asked about the students who had been selected as delegates to the 11th festival. He was informed that three delegates and seven guests of the center will join the Cuban delegation to the great event. He also asked about the military careers that the Camilo Cienfuegos students are planning to pursue when the preuniversity training ends.

When he asked about the number of members in the Union of Young Communists, he was told that more than 40 percent of the student body has joined the organization. Closing, he conveyed warm greetings on behalf of the FAR.

On arrival at the Desembarco del Granma military enterprise, which has also attained the honor of center of heroic tradition, the FAR minister and those accompanying him were informed on work activities and future plans. The group toured shops, warehouses and other installations. In his tour of the facilities, Raul chatted with workers and examined objects manufactured with surplus pieces of lumber for the delegates to the 11th festival and other articles.

Lt (Belquis Celisola), member of the 1977 FAR vanguard, presented to the FAR minister a miniature reproduction of an old cannon which was manufactured by the workers as a memento of his visit to the enterprise. In the visitors book, Raul wrote: During our visit we have appreciated the development of this important enterprise and the great effort being made by its supervisors and workers. We are sure that they will fulfill all plans and will set an example to be followed by similar enterprises.

During the tour of the eastern part of the country, Division Gen Senen Casas Regueiro also visited other FAR units and installations, among them a supply base due to be dedicated shortly, the Camilo Cienfuegos Military Vocational School in Holguin, a unit of the Antiaircraft Defense and Revolutionary Air Force and other military construction projects. At those locations Regueiro was briefed on the progress of the construction and gave orders aimed at stepping up their completion. He was also able to appreciate the effort being made by the workers.

CUBAN AMBASSADORS MEET WITH ARAB LEADERS

FL171930Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1607 GMT 17 Jun 78 FL

[Text] Cuban Ambassador to Syria Arturo Barber has held talks on the current situation of the Palestinian resistance with Abu Mayzar, official spokesman of the Palestine Liberation Organization. During the meeting held in Damascus, capital of Syria, Barber reiterated to the Palestinian leader the Cuban people's support for the PLO struggle for legitimate rights.

The chief of independent nationalists, (Ibrahim Mudayat), and Cuban Ambassador to Lebanon Alberto Velazco have met in Beirut to examine local and regional problems of the current Lebanese situation. Velazco also met with (Sabulzi), member of the politburo of the communist action organization, with whom he discussed the current political situation.

RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ RECEIVES UNESCO MEETING DELEGATES

FL161054Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 16 Jun 78 FL

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Council of State and Council of Ministers, has received in Havana City the chiefs of the delegations which participated in the 16th meeting of UNESCO's national committees of socialist countries. Attending the meeting with Carlos Raphael Rodriguez were representatives from Belorussia, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and Vietnam, among others. In name of the chiefs of the other delegations, Ambassador Igor Yezhov, chief of the USSR delegation to the UNESCO meeting, gave an extensive briefing on the results of the meeting, which were considered to be very positive. Referring to the importance of UNESCO's work, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, who is also member of the PCC Politburo, pointed out the valuable contribution these meetings make to the joint effort of this world organization.

PRD MISSION TO U.S. TO PROTEST POSTELECTION SITUATION

PA161311Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 2330 GMT 15 Jun 78 PA

[Text] Santo Domingo, 15 Jun (EFE)--The Dominican Revolutionary Party [PRD] announced today that it is sending a mission to visit officials in the United States to denounce the situation which exists in the country. The mission, to be headed by Vice President-elect Jacobo Majluta, will hold talks to denounce the maneuvers which the PRD says the present government is conducting in order to create a situation of chaos that will justify the taking of forceful measures.

The sending of the delegation was approved during an urgent meeting of the PRD's national executive committee held to analyze the present situation.

The PRD also issued a communique today proposing the holding of a strike of "patriotic and peaceful abstention [recogimiento] unless the popular will is recognized." The PRD leadership said that at the proper time it will determine the date for the appeal to the people so that, united, they will confine to their homes in observance of the "National Civic Day."

The invitation, which will culminate in a peaceful general strike, will be made by the PRD to the Catholic Church, other churches in the country, peasants, workers, professionals, businessmen and industrialists, housewives, teachers, students and others "to close ranks in the struggle against the enemies of the public will."

The PRD appeal is a response to the series of recriminations delays which the Central Electoral Board has under review and which have created a situation whereby a month after the general elections--which unofficially gave the victory to the PRD by more than 150,000 votes over the government's Reformist Party [PR]--the PRD has still not been officially awarded the victory. Furthermore, at the rate that events are progressing, the Central Electoral Board will still require days or weeks to issue the official results of the elections.

The cardinal of Santo Domingo, Monsignor Octavio Antonio Beras, told Antonio Guzman, who is considered president-elect, that the Dominican church "supports the results of the polling booth in the 16 May elections." After a meeting with the cardinal, Guzman said that the cardinal had told him that the church "has always been on the side of the popular will."

Guzman announced that he will seek another meeting with President Joaquin Balaguer and that he has no fears for the country's future, which contrasts to the opinion of his party's leadership.

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